

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 ARA-06 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
/081 W

-----251009Z 034626 /22

R 241354Z JAN 77 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2289
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0159

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BU, CU, MARR
SUBJECT: RAUL CASTRO VISITS BULGARIA

REF: SOFIA 0067 NOTAL

1. RAUL CASTRO, CUBAN FIRST VICE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER
OF REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES, AND SECOND SECRETARY
OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CCP, VISITED BULGARIA
DUAN 11-21 AT INVITATION OF TODOR ZHIVKOV. MEDIA COVERAGE SUPPORTS
CONCLUSION THAT VISIT DEALT WITH MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN
BULGARIA AND CUBA.

2. NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF CASTRO ARRIVAL JAN 11 DID NOT STATE
HIS DEFENSE TITLE AND LISTED ONLY BULGARIAN CIVILIAN GREETERS
BUT TV COVERAGE SHOWED NUMBER OF SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS AMONG
THOSE AT PLANESIDE FOR HIS ARRIVAL.

3. HE WAS RECEIVED BY TODOR ZHIVKOV JAN 12 AT LOVECH, DURING
ZHIVKOV VISIT TO THAT DISTRICT, REPORTED BY BULGARIAN PRESS
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JAN 14. HE THEN DISAPPEARED FROM PUBLIC VIEW UNTIL JAN 20 WHEN
LARGE RECEPTION WAS HELD FOR HIM AT CENTRAL MILITARY CLUB,
HOSTED BY COLONEL-GENERAL ATANAS SEMERDZHIEV, FIRST DEPUTY
MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF BULGARIAN
ARMY. PRESS COVERAGE OF RECEPTION GAVE CASTRO'S DEFENSE TITLE
FOR FIRST TIME.

4. SINCE VISIT OF SOVIET MOD USTINOV TO BULGARIA IN EARLY DECEMBER 1976, PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT COLONEL GENERAL SEMERDZHIEV HAS MET VISITING MINISTERS OF DEFENSE OF SOMALIA AND NOW CUBA (REF) IN PLACE OF DEFENSE MINISTER AND POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBER ARMY GENERAL DOBRI DZHUROV. DZHUROV WAS MENTIONED PUBLICLY IN LOCAL PRESS JAN 21 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE DECEMBER 11, ALSO HAVING BEEN ABSENT, FOR EXAMPLE, FROM ZHIVKOV'S NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION. REASON FOR DZHUROV'S ABSENCE FROM PUBLIC VIEW FOR OVER A MONTH IS NOT KNOWN.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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